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COUNTDOWN IS ON FOR KEEGAN

BY DAVID JACK

KEVIN KEEGAN's impending arrival in Australia to play in the National Soccer League is creating unprecedented interest — nowhere more than at Blacktown.

Keegan will play two NSL matches for Blacktown City — the first against Canberra City on April 28 and the other a week later (May 5) against Sydney Croatia.

Blacktown immediately said "yes" when Keegan was offered to them several months ago.

The 65 times capped English international forward, who retired from serious soccer at the end of last season, is the biggest UK star ever to appear in the NSL.

In the past, several well-known British players have made guest appearances in Australia but there is only one Kevin Keegan.

When I checked with Blacktown coach Casey de Bruin and some of his senior players for their reaction to Keegan's visit, the verdict was unanimous — "fantastic."

Unlike some other ex-internationals, Keegan has always been held in the high-

est esteem throughout the world.

As coach de Bruin said: "Keegan is the type of player who

will always give 100 percent.

"He is a genuine personality and he cannot fail to do a lot

for soccer here, particularly in the Blacktown area.

"Keegan is not a mercenary who simply plays for money. He has a lot of pride in his performance and that is the way he has been right through his distinguished career."

When I asked Socceroo Phil O'Connor how he felt about playing alongside the master striker, Phil said: "I am really looking forward to it.

"Kevin will give the whole side a tremendous lift — especially me. I've been needing someone to do the running for me in the front-line!

"Seriously though, Kevin Keegan is the sort of player who gives everything he's got every time he takes the field. In other words, he won't expect to play badly for Blacktown City."

Blacktown secretary Peter Thorne, who did most of the negotiating for this magnificent promo-

tion, is naturally delighted about the coup for his club.

"This is not the first time our club has seen fit to bring over a legendary footballing personality," Thorne said.

"It will be remembered by soccer supporters in general and Blacktown City supporters in particular that in 1980 Bobby Charlton played in our opening National League match against St George.

"He didn't let his fans down by scoring a goal, and I am most confident Keegan will repeat that success," Thorne said.

He will be guest speaker at several functions, do television work, write columns for the Sydney Sun newspaper and also hopes to do some coaching of young Aussies.

But undoubtedly the high spots of his tour will be his two guest appearances in the NSL for Blacktown City.

The Gabba Stadium should be packed for both matches.



JIM HERMISTON

HERMISTON SET FOR STATE CALL-UP

BY GREG RUSSELL

FORMER NSL Player of the Year Jim Hermiston is set to play sweeper for Queensland in the inter-state clash with New South Wales on April 25.

Hermiston, 37, who retired from National League football three years ago to coach Brisbane City, has been named in a Brisbane squad to play Ipswich in an inter-city clash in Queensland this Sunday.

The match is an official trial for the Queensland team and state coach Bruce Stowell has admitted Hermiston is under consideration to wear the Maroon jersey again.

"He has got to be looked at as a Queensland possibility," Stowell said.

Hermiston was picked by Fred Robins in the 14-man Brisbane squad after a series of faultless displays during the pre-season for his Premier League club North Star, where Hermiston has played since quitting the City job 14 months ago.

Meanwhile, NSW coach Alan Vest will wait until after the NSL Cup round on April 3 to name his squad.

This will mean they will only have three training sessions, scheduled for St George Stadium.



All the NSL action — Northern Division

SAINTS SCORE LESS AGAIN!

Marconi.....1 St George0

THREE games without a goal is the continued dismal record of St George following their 1-0 defeat at Marconi Stadium yesterday.

There is no saying won had they tucked that they would have away some of the

GOALS ARE HABIT FOR SLICKERS

Sydney City.....5 Wollongong2

TRAINING without goalposts hasn't dented Sydney City's goalscoring ability.

That was evident when the Slickers notched their third consecutive victory in as many matches with a 5-2 win over Wollongong City at Wentworth Park.

The Slickers have scored 12 goals in those three wins, yet they have had to use witches' hats for target practice at training!

The posts go up at Sydney Athletic Field this week, so what will the Slickers be like with a bit of proper shooting practice under their belt?

Yet it was the Wolves who took the lead after only 11 minutes, when Peter Willis put away a penalty after referee Robert Davies ruled Jimmy Cant had spilled Zivko Hristovski as the big midfielder ran onto the ball.

Slickers drew even in the 20th minute when Frank Farina scored the first goal of his hat-trick, heading home Joe Watson's well-flighted corner-kick.

The third goal was a classic piece of defence turned into attack by sweeper Steve O'Connor. The Socceroo defender strode up the field from halfway, working a couple of one-twos before entering the penalty area.

BY BRAD EARL

O'Connor's shot was spilled by Wollongong goalkeeper Natch Vardareff but he followed up to score.

Wollongong, playing with great determination in the first half, equalised in the 31st minute with a disputed goal by Pat Brodnik.

Slickers players protested that the ball had gone over the goal-line and swung back into play in the lead-up to the goal.

Graeme Fletcher saw his header pushed over the bar by Vardareff in the 46th minute, but from the resultant corner-kick, the ball fell to Watson whose low shot put Sydney City ahead once again.

That was the second time the otherwise well-marshalled Wollongong defence was caught out at corner-kicks.

Their offside trap was beaten in the 64th minute by Fletcher on the left and he centred the ball for Farina to score.

Three minutes later the ball was once again played to the left by Sydney City. This time it was Farina who picked it up and shot past the advancing Vardareff for his hat-trick and Sydney City's fifth goal.

Man of the match: hat-trick hero FRANK FARINA made a number of dangerous breaks in what was an entertaining, attacking match.

SYDNEY CITY: Clarke; Cant, de Marigny, O'Connor, Gomez; Watson (Patterson 77), Barnes (P. Falconer 77), Lee, Fletcher, Farina, Kozmina.

WOLLONGONG: Vardareff; Condron, Mettles (Baker 74), Willis, Dickson, Brodnik (Corradini 74), Bundale, Hristovski, Kerr; Kotamanidis, Giannone.

REFEREE: R. Davies.
CROWD: 500.

chances they made, because Marconi had some amazing misses.

At least Saints could have done better than they did as Robbie Slater (twice) and Andrew Koczka reached scoring positions without being able to find the net.

The Saints have been scouring the Australian and overseas markets for someone who can give them back the ring of confidence and it seems that Trevor Morgan from England is the man in whom they will be pinning a lot of faith.

Before the game Marconi striker Mark Jankovics (either joyfully or seriously) nominated that he would score twice in the game.

The forecast followed a week spent with the misery of influenza and he only took his place as Rod Brown was absent from the forward-line because of a nose problem that left one side of his face with pins and needles.

"Janko" rattled one goal home in the 10th minute and in the 33rd he almost fulfilled his prophecy.

The goal arrived following a Peter Tredinnick pass to wide on the left flank where David Lowe was at the ready. His pass found Jankovics and it was quickly in the net from the most acute of angles.

For the attempt that missed, Jankovics just headed

wide after a pass from newcomer Ian Gray. Jankovics has four goals to show from the first three games and that is no mean effort.

It was a good start for Gray, who had just joined the club on a \$22,000 transfer from Leichhardt.

BY KEITH GILMOUR

St George were under real pressure right from the kick-off. Terry Greedy was forced to turn a piledriver from Craig Mason over the bar and then Peter Stone pulled off an amazing save within a metre or so of goal.

Gray had battled through; Lowe passed the ball goalwards and Stone lifted the ball over the crossbar whilst facing his own goal and with the ball running away from him.

Both teams were soon in strife. Joe Rizzotto came off with a damaged ankle and Peter Petkovski with a broken finger.

Towards the end Peter Sharne hobbled off with a groin strain and the three of them are likely to be missing next week.

Robbie Slater could have had the Saints back in the picture in the 57th and 63rd minutes. In the first case he met Barton's cross a fraction too late and in the second he misjudged his pass to Marton when the veteran striker was poised to score.



MARK JANKOVICS

Marconi appeared certain to add another goal with seven minutes to go. Peter Sharne had cut loose in the previous minutes to show the best football seen from him this year.

He simply waltzed through the defence along the right only

to hit the post with an angled shot when the goal was at his mercy.

Man of the match: there was no clear-cut hero for either team but PAUL CARTER showed huge improvement and continuous work with very few errors.

MARCONI: McPherson, Carter, Rizzotto (Driens 20), Henderson, Calderan, Mason, Gray, Tredinnick, Lowe, Jankovics, Sharne (Gunning 81).

ST GEORGE: Greedy, Skeen, Koczka, Barton (High 64), Ratcliffe, M. O'Shea, Stone, J. O'Shea, Riley, Petkovski (Marton 21), Slater.

REFEREE: G. Power.
CROWD: 1,338.

STRIKERS WERE OUT ON STRIKE

Inter Monaro0 Leichhardt3

APIA LEICHARDT's 3-0 win over Inter Monaro at Seiffert Oval was a fair indication of the difference between the teams.

It was sad to see Monaro's twin strikers Baz Giampaolo and Walter Valeri on strike. They sat in the stand while their team failed to find the net for the fourth consecutive time.

Officially the strikers are supposed to be injured, but the dogs at Seiffert

were barking that more money will bring the pair back into the black and green.

Leichhardt went about their job professionally, playing well just before half-time when some good work in the midfield should have resulted in more than the solitary first half goal.

It had come after 13 minutes when Vince Colagiuri made a slashing run down the left and crossed to Tom McCulloch whose shot was parried. Tony Morsello buried the rebound in the net.

Billy Wilcox was the liveliest of Monaro's attackers in the first half but full-back Mark Francis had so much trouble with Kerry Caban that he was substituted at half-time.

Michael Hocking saved a penalty for Monaro in the 36th minute when Berti Mariani tried to steer the ball past him after Angelo Titilas had fouled Morsello in the area.

It was the keeper's fourth successive saving of a spot-kick — an extraordinary record.

Monaro's new signing Emil Dragicevic showed deft touches every time he had the ball, mainly playing wide in attack.

But he was not properly supported until substitute Andrew Monteroso started to run at Leichhardt late in the game.

Monaro's best chance came in the 54th minute when Bob Catlin touched a Ricky Budini header over the bar after

Chris Thamnidis had taken the ball from Tony Brennan and cut inside the defence.

The little winger constantly beat defenders only to squander his last pass or shot.

Brennan became so frustrated that he was taken off after earning a yellow card.

The second goal was inevitable with man of the match Caban driving the ball into the roof of the net from close to the byline.

Rob de Ceglie had provided the header to Caban.

Five minutes later Thamnidis missed an open goal in a piece of finishing that was typical of him on the day.

McCulloch still finding his way among his new team mates

was on hand in the 90th minute to take the ball from Caban and put away the third goal from close range.

Leichhardt will need to concentrate for longer periods against better opposition while Monaro urgently needs its best players on the park.

Man of the match: Leichhardt striker KERRY CABAN who scored a delicately taken goal, laid on another and hit the post as well.

MONARO: Hocking, Walsh, Francis, (Gegetti 45) Budini, Santolin, Titilas, Carbone, Thamnidis, Wilcox, Brennan (Monteroso 72), Dragicevic.

LEICHARDT: Catlin, Casacchia (Spina 70), Brown, Mariani, Rowden, Butler, Colaguri (Genovese 67), McCulloch, Caban, de Ceglie.

REFEREE: N. Murray.
CROWD: 844.

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All the NSL action — Northern Division



MARSHALL SOPER hits a spectacular shot at St George Stadium, but Canberra goalkeeper Tony Franken is out to save.

TONY LEFT IT LATE

Penrith0 Blacktown1

A PLAYER who learnt his soccer in Penrith scored the goal that destroyed Penrith City as Blacktown City won 1-0 at Cook Park yesterday.

Tony Rasmussen, the Demons' 24-year-old left-back, was the hero with a goal right on the stroke of 90 minutes.

Rasmussen was a product of the Nepean district but joined Blacktown when they entered the National League five years ago.

Ironically, it was a repeat of the Demons' pre-season Ampol Cup victory over Penrith City, when Johnny Larkin scored a last-minute goal to defeat the Panthers.

Yesterday's enthralling encounter seemed headed for a 0-0 scoreline ... but Rasmussen had other ideas.

The full-back ran into the penalty area and Stuart Selvage, positioned 20 metres out from goal, picked him up and played the ball into his path.

Rasmussen fired the ball low across the face of the goal, beating goalkeeper Mike Gibson's dive, and it curled into the net off the far post.

Earlier in the second half, both sides had hit the crossbar in search of a goal to break the deadlock, firstly when a Larkin header hit the bar in the 71st minute.

For Penrith, midfielder Ian Wotherpoon drove the ball against the bar from 10 metres in the 86th minute as the Panthers piled on the press-

BY BRAD EARL

ure at a corner-kick.

Blacktown held the upper hand in the first half, but Penrith came back strongly in the second period.

The Panthers midfield struggled and Penrith coach Willie Wallace is clearly looking forward to having strong youngster David Hale back from injury in a couple of weeks.

But Penrith's defence of Peter Brogan, Mickey Cross, Jeff Ainsworth and Dave McIntosh was as efficient as ever, and they managed to begin several attacking moves with forays into midfield.

Wallace wasn't too complimentary to Blacktown after the match.

"I'm glad I haven't spent the sort of money they've spent for the side they've got," Wallace said. "Where they finish in the League, we'll be beside them."

Man of the match: JEFF AINSWORTH defended well and joined many attacks from sweeper for Penrith City.

PENRITH: Gibeon, Brogan, Cross, Ainsworth, McIntosh, Wotherspoon, Carboni (Tooley 68), Hebb, Jackson (Hunter 45), Easthope, Licals.

BLACKTOWN: Hoare, Skellern, Rasmussen, Wheatley, Pointer, Selvage, Thorntwhale, Bourke (Hormezabal 68), Bradley, Larkin, O'Connor.

REFEREE: G. Warne. **CROWD:** 433.

SYDNEY CROATIA'S CHEQUE BOOK PAYS DIVIDENDS

Newcastle1
Sydney Croatia2

BY NEIL JAMESON

SYDNEY CROATIA's open cheque book finally yielded the desired dividend when their classy line-up pipped Newcastle for the points at Adamstown.

The full-time whistle was the signal for Croatia's jubilant supporters to break into national song, but a more fitting anthem might have been Cindy Lauper's "Money Changes Everything".

With a midfield alone that cost almost twice the Newcastle budget, Croatia had fractionally too much skill and guile for their hard-chasing opponents.

Zarko Odzakov, rushed into the side after Friday's \$21,000 transfer from Preston, gave Croatia value for cash with a dazzling display crowned by an invaluable goal.

In keeping with early season promotions under Adamstown's splendid lights, this was another nerve-jangling display, sparked with passion and non-stop action.

From the instant Jim Patikas hit the Newcastle post in the first minute, it was evident there would be no room for the faint-hearted.

Clint Gosling's coolness in goal kept Newcastle in the chase until the 26th minute when David Jones was sandwiched by Tom Basic and Vedran Rozic to give referee Tim Davies no option but to award a penalty.

Passions were running high and it took a full three minutes before the area was cleared during which time Zeljko Jurin received a yellow card for allegedly elbowing Bernard Kerby.

Joe Senkalski coolly converted from the spot but two minutes later Patikas' high velocity shooting almost put Croatia back on terms as Gosling saved Newcastle again.

With the half-time whistle imminent, Senkalski put David Jones away down the left. The winger squared an early ball back across the penalty area: John McQuarrie arrived in a blinding rush, but chose the nine iron instead of the driver and the ball soared over an empty goalmouth.

Six minutes of the second half had elapsed when Patikas burst through on a long ball down the

middle. Gosling came off his line and upended the midfielder right on the edge of the area — the referee ruled a free-kick outside the box.

Odzakov shaped to bend it over the wall, but the ball struck Senkalski's head and looped into the top left corner, giving Gosling no chance.

The sheer pace of the match was beginning to tell on the Newcastle midfielders as they tried to frustrate Croatia's slickness.

A missed midfield tackle saw Wally Savor burst down the left in the 62nd minute.

He rode Mark Jones' tackle and when Gosling came to block the angled shot, the ball struck the keeper's leg and soared invitingly goalward for Graham Arnold who bundled it into a unguarded net.

Simon Brandt almost dragged it out of the fire for Newcastle with two close calls in the dying minutes but, with their fans pleading for the final whistle, Croatia displayed the required composure to win.

Thus far Newcastle have had guests in Sydney City (pre-season), Sydney Olympic and Croatia.

On this effort Croatia appeared every bit as good as the other illustrious pair.

Meanwhile, Newcastle have just one point from three games and coach Willie Gallagher is searching anxiously for a solution to turn all that exuberance and effort into points.

With striker Derek Todd expected to return this week, the answer could be at hand.

Man of the match: MARIJAN KOVACIC for an unselfish all-round effort in defence and attack that might easily have yielded two more goals for Croatia.

NEWCASTLE: Gosling, Maier, Owens, Boogaard, M. Jones, Kerby, Senkalski, McQuarrie, Milosevic (Naumov 67), Brandt, D. Jones.

SYDNEY CROATIA: Woodhouse, A. Kovacic, Basic, Rezo, Rozic, M. Kovacic, Jurin, Savor, Arnold, Patikas, Odzakov.

REFEREE: T. Davies.

CROWD: 2,300.

CANBERRA BANDITS STEAL POINTS

Sydney Olympic0
Canberra1

IF football teams could be charged for committing a felony on the field of play, Canberra City would be in Long Bay Jail for the rest of the season.

For in typical Ned Kelly fashion, Canberra came to town yesterday, held up Sydney Olympic and stole two valuable points with a 1-0 victory at St George Stadium.

Canberra now call themselves the City Olympians, but on this performance they should adopt the same name as their ACT rugby league counterparts — the Raiders — or to be more precise, the Hit and Run Raiders.

But good luck to them, they stuck to their task throughout the 90 minutes, played percentage football and used ultra spoiling tactics to get the desired result.

Their ace in the pack was midfielder John Mihailidis, who snatched the all-important goal in the 72nd minute to give his side victory.

But this was not all this little terror achieved — he completely bottled up the brains of the Olympic team, Peter Raskopoulos.

And with Rasko out of the game, Olympic's guile and know-how department was as bare as Old Mother Hubbard's cupboard.

Sure Olympic had 80 percent of the possession, but they didn't know how to use it and more often than not their final pass was just a ball full of hope and not much glory.

Good defence-splitting passes to the strikers were as scarce as hen's teeth.

With Rasko bottled up, one of the other Olympic midfielders should have taken the responsibility of playmaker on his shoulders, but this did not happen and Olympic paid the penalty.

For the majority of this game it was Olympic against Canberra goalkeeper Tony Franken and the talented young

ster responded in magnificent fashion.

Most of the balls thrown into the Canberra goal area were 50-50 efforts but he coped like a veteran.

This win now puts Canberra into second position on the competition ladder.

If they adopt the same tactics away from home as they did against Olympic yesterday they could steal quite a few surprise points.

As for Olympic, they are a young team who no doubt have learned that impetuosity doesn't win football games.

A special mention must go to referee Peter Rampley who gave a flawless performance to prove beyond any shadow of a doubt that top referees should control top matches.

Man of the match: it was impossible to separate Canberra goalkeeper TONY FRANKEN and his team-mate JOHN MIHAELIDIS: both performed above and beyond the call of duty and never put a foot or hand wrong.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Meier; Johnston, Lampropoulos, Zirras (Theodorakopoulos 81), Jennings; Phillips, Raskopoulos, Katsolos; Soper, Patails, Kalantzis (Koureas 81).

CANBERRA: Franken; Ontong, Burke, Harkins, Jones; Byrne, Bryant, Sermanni, Mihailidis; Perinovic, English.

REFEREE: P. Rampley.
CROWD: 3,970.



ANTHONY FRANKEN

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All the NSL action — Southern Division

PIMBLETT PUFFS PEACE PIPE?

Brisbane City 0 Sunshine GC 1

FORMER Brisbane City and Queensland captain Frank Pimblett has settled his dispute with the club and will start training tomorrow night (Tuesday).

Pimblett refused to attend pre-season training because he felt the club had not acted responsibly in strengthening last year's team, then threatened to sit out the season when the City board slapped a suspension on him for his attitude.

But talks last week between Pimblett and City president John Ciavarella solved the dispute and now Pimblett is keen to get back into the game — and win a place in the Queensland team to play NSW on April 25.

And Brisbane City certainly could use Pimblett in its midfield.

The side was outplayed in the centre of the park as it crashed 1-0 to lowly Sunshine George Cross at Spencer Park.

City fielded three youngsters in the middle, Russell Robinson, Frank Mengotti and Ray Junna, and although they ran doggedly they failed to take control of the game.

Sunshine, who fielded coach John Gardiner as sweeper, started the match as if they were looking for a draw.

Only one player stood out and it was obvious if anyone was going to score it was going to be Sunshine's Ossie Latif.

And after a dull first half it was Latif who rocked City with a brilliant goal only two minutes into the second half.

From almost nothing the Turkish-born striker weaved through the City defence then fired an unstoppable shot past stunned City keeper Kim Wishart.

The goal boosted Sunshine's confidence and their first half negative football gave way to some confident attacking moves.

Noel Mitten, Carl Gilder, Roger Bain and Latif were all unlucky not to add to Sunshine's total.

But City also attacked in a bid to

BY GREG RUSSELL

wipe out the deficit and were desperately unlucky when an Alan Reis header off a Peter Carey cross bounced off the underside of the crossbar before being scooped away by Sunshine keeper Lou Kastner.

Reis later claimed the ball was well over the line.

Carey and Bromfield were also unlucky with attempts which went narrowly wide, but City just

did not have the experience or strength to get back into the game.

Man of the match: undoubtedly OSSIE LATIF who stood out as a class above any player on the park and was always going to be the matchwinner.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart, Fabrizio, Wilkinson, Milovanovic, Bromfield, Junna, Mengotti, (Hamilton 60), Robinson, Glockner (Felsach 54), Carey, Reis.

SUNSHINE GC: Kastner, Campbell, Taylor, Gardiner, Richardson, Faulkner, Istruk (Bain 68), Mitten, Gilder, McLaren, Latif.

REFEREE: A. Kibbler.

CROWD: 1,005.

WESTAD'S REVENGE

West Adelaide 2 Adelaide City 1

WEST ADELAIDE scored sweet revenge in a 2-1 win over Adelaide City at Hindmarsh Stadium for two vital points.

City had sunk West 2-0 in the SA Ampol Cup final which was a torrid affair.

However, with FIFA referee Donald Campbell in charge, there were only two yellow cards.

They were shown in the 63rd minute against West's George Konstandopoulos for a foul on Steve Maxwell, and in the 77th to penalise Maxwell for a foul on — you guessed it — Konstandopoulos.

BY TOM MCKAIN

With both teams on their best behaviour it was a tentative cut and thrust opening.

Then in the 20th minute John Panagis took a corner from and it curled into the City net.

Five minutes later Maxwell equalised from a move involving Fortu Costanzo, then Charlie Villani.

But inside two minutes Konstandopoulos got what was to prove the winner when he crossed the ball from 30 metres to beat Willie McNally in the City goal.

Into the second half and there were shots from Konstandopoulos over the bar, Villani straight at West goalkeeper Garry Sproul, and Neville Flounders coming through the field for City only to hit the ball over the top.

Konstandopoulos, playing with a broken nose suffered in the Ampol final, eventually came off in the 78th minute while City coach Edmund Kreft took off midfielder Adrian Santac two minutes later and sent on striker Peter Rankin.

But while City got close to equalising, the two points went to West in what was an entertaining game — for neutrals.

Man of the match: GRAHAM HONEYMAN for holding up the defence once again and setting up chances for his front-runners.

WEST ADELAIDE: Sproul, McGregor, Hiern, Honeyman, Scott, Manou, Atsalas, Panagis, Konstandopoulos (Papadopoulos 78), Brown, Genikos.

ADELAIDE CITY: McNally, Donnelly, Flounders, Mykohus, Cecere, Santrac (Rankin 70), Northcote, Villani, Maxwell, Mullen, Costanzo.

REFEREE: D. Campbell.

CROWD: 3,126.

BERGERS HIT BACK TO WIN

MELBOURNE ROUND-UP

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

HEIDELBERG UNITED weathered a barrage in the opening 20 minutes of their spectacular clash against Melbourne Croatia to emerge victors with a convincing 2-1 win at Olympic Park.

Croatia opened the scoring in the 10th minute of the game with a goal by Greg House to create the impression Heidelberg were to lose a second game in the space of four days.

Much to their credit, the Bergers reversed the pressure in the second half and scored two goals in the space of five minutes to earn two valuable championship points.

Croatia adopted ultra-defensive tactics in the opening quarter of the game and managed to nullify most of Heidelberg's key players with tight man-to-man marking.

Heidelberg refused to surrender and pushed forward with all their might, desperately trying to break the defensive wall built by Croatia's packed defence.

Captain Theo Selmidis first cracked Croatia's defensive wall in the 49th minute when he steered in the net a low drive from the area line to level the score.

Four minutes later Scott Patterson shot Heidelberg in the lead with what was termed by the great Puskas, "an unbelievable shot."

Heidelberg netted a third goal in the 60th minute but referee Chris Bambridge did not allow the goal to stand because of an offside.

Heidelberg's performance was entirely different to that of Wednesday night when they were defeated by Preston 2-1 in the NSL Cup and caused coach Brian Garvey to comment after the game: "This team will continue surprising their opponents with attacking displays."

MELBOURNE CROATIA: Govic, Curcio, Juricic, (Govic 62), Parton, Antolovic, Cristaldo, Cumming, Blakic, Ward, House.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver, McKie, Marley, Yankos, Gabrielson, Tasic, Valentine, Patterson, Stevenson, Winn.

REFEREE: C. Bambridge.

CROWD: 2,956.

PRESTON and Brunswick Juventus played an entertaining 0-0 draw at Melbourne's Connor Reserve to share the points of their third round encounter.

The game marked the debut of midfielder Mike Petersen who transferred to Juventus from Heidelberg United during the week for an alleged \$8,000.

Preston were the better side and created enough opportunities but could have given them the game, had their strikers been more accurate at target. Shaun Lane and Zoran Iloski missed brilliant opportunities to put Preston in the lead when their repeated shots sailed wide of the target.

Juventus in turn could have stolen the game when Joe Sweeney put Fabio Incantalo through with a defence splitting pass but Incantalo delayed momentarily and Preston's experienced defence dispossessed the deadly striker.

Preston once again could have gone in the lead in the second half but Juventus' experienced goalkeeper Yakka Banovic well placed under his goals saved with tremendous agility off Lane on the scoreline remained unchanged until the final whistle.

PRESTON: Trainedes, McMillan, Dunn, Dobson, Oppenheim, Heyn, Flavell, Iloski, Cole, Spink, Lane.

JUVENTUS: Banovic, Lewis, Petersen, Brown, Drinovszky, Campbell, Cullenn, Wade, Incantalo, Sweeney, Zinni (Palatsidis).

REFEREE: J. Fearn.

CROWD: 4,000.

SOUTH MELBOURNE demolished Footscray with a convincing 3-1 win at Melbourne's Middle Park.

South's third successive win was a personal triumph of the leading goalscorer Charlie Egan who scored a hat-trick to lift his total for the season so far to six goals.

Egan opened the scoring in the sixth minute when he blasted in the net a long through-ball by Bobby Russell.

South Melbourne assumed control of the game immediately after Egan had put them into the lead.

Egan struck with the second goal in the 40th minute tapping into the net a weak clearance by Bob Brown.

Footscray recovered momentarily in the 59th minute when striker Zeravko Lujic pushed in the net a long through ball to reduce the margin to 2-1.

Egan chimed in with a third goal in the 77th minute to seal the match.

SOUTH MELBOURNE: Laumets, Russell, Postecoglou, Blair, Yzendoorn, Crino, Halford, McDowell, Murphy, Egan, Brown.

FOOTSCRAY: Boland, Curovic (Stojevski 46), Lujic, Kyriakouleas, Keric, Carroll, Tasevski, Janjic, Stolovic, Lazaropoulos, Tapal.

REFEREE: S. Zoumas.

CROWD: 2,500.

GREEN GULLY made a strong comeback in the second half against Brisbane Lions to win the match 2-0 at Green Gully Reserve.

The match was stopped in the second half as torrential rain fell, forcing referee Stuart Mellings to order the two teams off for a period of seven minutes.

The Queenslanders dominated the first half through the excellent work done by Jackson, Niven and Hunter.

Paul Lewis scored from a free-kick but was ruled offside in the 25th minute.

But three minutes after the break, Paul Lewis scored after good lead-up work through Smart, Smallman and Lucchesi.

After the rain had stopped play, Green Gully came back very strongly and Claude Lucchesi, making his 100th NSL appearance, beat Jackson's tackle to score Gully's second goal.

This was Lucchesi's first goal for his new club.

GREEN GULLY: Denya, Young (Vassallo), McLelland, Murray, Cannell, Smart, Lewis, Lucchesi, Lloyd, Smallman, Williams (McKenna).

BRISBANE LIONS: Evans, McSkimming (Redmond), Hunter, Jackson, Niven, J. Stewart, R. Stewart, Ogden, Calmey, McGregor, Anderson (McDonagh).

REFEREE: S. Mellings.

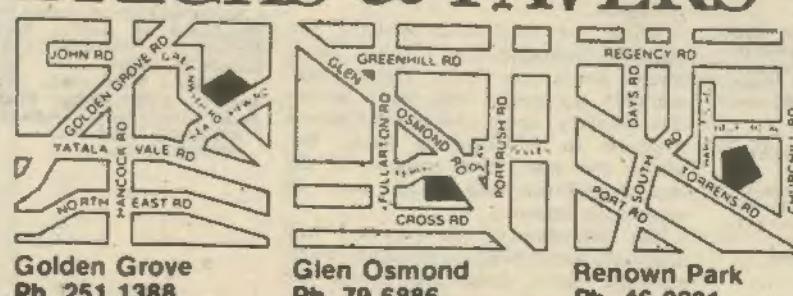
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FROM LEFT: Sydney City's Australian captain John Kosmina, assistant secretary Ms Lynne Vanderstap and manager-coach Eddie Thomson.



FROM LEFT: Sydney City committee member Andrew Kemeny, club chairman Sam Fiszman, leading players Tony Pezzano, John Kosmina, Steve O'Connor and coach Eddie Thomson inspect a Nike soccer boot.

BY JOHN ECONOMOS

SYDNEY CITY have announced a major sponsorship with the international sports group manufacturer, Nike.

As well as their famous track and field sports shoes, Nike make track-suits, sweat-shirts and a range of sports leisure wear.

Eddie Thomson, Sydney City's manager-coach, stated: "We value Nike's association with our NSL squad. The sponsorship has a value of \$15,000 and Sydney City players will be completely outfitted in Nike products."

Chairman of the soccer committee, Sam Fiszman, said: "This season Sydney City have made only one buy, Frank Farina, and we have adopted a policy of spending funds not on buying players, but on a first-class coaching staff."

The 1985 Sydney City coaching staff is: head coach Eddie Thomson; assistant coach Terry Smith; trainer/coach Mick Hickman; youth coach Geoff Harcombe; assistant youth coach Roy Thomas.

The club has appointed Ms Lynne Vanderstap as Thomson's assistant football secretary.

Club captain and high school science teacher Murray Barnes said: "We again will be out for championship honours and we will try even harder to lift our standards higher, so it will be up to the other NSL clubs to try to match us."

"I think we will do well again as we have retained many experienced players, sprinkled with some young, exciting material in the style of Ean Rodrigues, Jean-Paul de Marigny, Frank Farina and Grant Lee."

Meanwhile, Thomson has signed a group of 16-year-olds he maintains have a very promising future with Sydney City.

They are striker Mick Lardis, midfielder Tom Pontidas, full-back Jamie Rankin and sweeper Geoff Briggs.

RESULTS

NSL NORTHERN DIVISION

SYDNEY CITY 5 (Farina 3, O'Connor, Watson) WOLLONGONG CITY 2 (Willis, Brodnik) at Wentworth Park. Crowd 500.

NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD UTD 1 (Senkalski) SYDNEY CROATIA 2 (Odzakov, Arnold) at Adamstown Oval. Crowd 3,400.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0 CANBERRA CITY 1 (Mihailidis) at St George Stadium. Crowd 3,970.

INTER MONARO 0 APIA LEICHARDT 3 (Morsello, McCulloch, Caban) at Seiffert Oval. Crowd 844.

PENRITH CITY 0 BLACKTOWN CITY 1 (Rasmussen) at Cook Park. Crowd 433.

MARCONI 1 (Jankovics) ST GEORGE 0 at Marconi Stadium. Crowd 1,336.

NSL SOUTHERN DIVISION

GREEN GULLY 2 (Lewis, Lucchesi) BRISBANE LIONS 0 at Green Gully Reserve. Crowd 500.

WEST ADELAIDE 2 (Brown, Konstandopoulos) ADELAIDE CITY 1 (Maxwell) at Hindmarsh Stadium. Crowd 5,500.

BRISBANE CITY 0 SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS 1 (Latif) at Spencer Park. Crowd 1,005.

PRESTON 0 BRUNSWICK 0 at Connor Reserve. Crowd 3,000.

SOUTH MELBOURNE 3 (Egan 3) FOOTSCRAY 1 (Lujic) at Middle Park. Crowd 2,000.

MELBOURNE CROATIA 1 (Moore) HEIDELBERG 2 (Selamidis, Patterson) at Olympic Park. Crowd 3,000.

TOP SCORERS

- 6 — EGAN (South Melbourne)
- 4 — JANKOVICS (Marconi)
- 3 — LEWIS (Green Gully), HOUSE 3 (Melbourne Croatia)
- KOSMINA, FARINA (Sydney City)
- ARNOLD (Sydney Croatia)

NSL YOUTH LEAGUE

AIS 0 SYDNEY OLYMPIC 0.
SYDNEY CITY 4 (Foxman, Said, Pontidas, Pezzano pen) WOLLONGONG CITY 0.
MARCONI 1 (Gunning) ST GEORGE 1 (Watson).
PENRITH CITY 1 (Csoka) BLACKTOWN CITY 2 (Byrne, Jones).
INTER MONARO 4 (Heidermanns, Dyordevski pen, Manigan, Chicco) APIA LEICHARDT 3 (Bedoni 2 pens, Parison).
SYDNEY OLYMPIC 1 (Polias) CANBERRA 1 (Fernandez pen).



OLYMPIC AIRWAYS NATIONAL SOCCER LEAGUE



THIS WEEK'S MATCHES

SYDNEY CROATIA v SYDNEY CITY

Sunday March 31

3pm — King Tomislav Park



BLACKTOWN CITY v SYDNEY OLYMPIC

Sunday March 31

3pm — Gabbie Stadium

WOLLONGONG CITY v INTER MONARO

Saturday March 30

3pm — Wollongong Showground

CANBERRA CITY v MARCONI

Sunday March 31

3pm — Manuka Oval

APIA LEICHARDT v PENRITH CITY

Sunday March 31

3pm — Lambert Park

ST GEORGE v NEWCASTLE ROSEBUD UTD

Sunday March 31

3pm — St George Stadium



EDITORIAL

REFEREES, COACHES MEETING IS GOOD MOVE

THE decision by the National Soccer League to call a special meeting between club coaches and referees is to be applauded.

After only two League and two Cup rounds, referees had come in for quite a pasting from coaches over disputed decisions.

It's a situation which required action ... and NSL manager Steve Kamasz moved quickly by calling a special meeting at the Apia Club tonight.

Maybe Kamasz has been taking lessons on consensus from Bob Hawke, but it is definitely a sensible approach to a situation that can only harm the game.

Coaches must, and do, realise that mistakes will always be made by referees.

It's just the number of mistakes they believe have occurred in recent weeks they are worried about.

Many people feel the standard of refereeing at National League level has fallen, and that the number of top-class whistlers has diminished.

Perhaps the answer lies with a theory provided by a current Socceroo player.

He says the problem has arisen because of the drop in playing standards which occurred when the League was expanded from 16 to 24 teams last season.

"In most teams there are players who are not up to NSL standard," the player explained, "and often these players are defenders who have trouble containing skilful opponents."

It's an interesting theory; that there are more fouls being committed. So when a referee is criticised for being whistle-happy, it may be the fault of the players and ultimately the coaches.

Let's hope that both parties can solve their differences with a common sense approach at tonight's meeting, and hopefully set an example that can be followed for dealing with other issues in the game.



CHIT CHAT

THERE was plenty of criticism when IAN GRAY brought a professional agent into his long drawn-out transfer negotiations with Apia Leichhardt.

Gray, however, had no regrets.

"Surely this is introducing some overdue professionalism into Australian soccer," he said.

In fact, in most overseas countries, none of the star players would dream of conducting deals with clubs unless they had their agents at their side.



WAS that CHARLIE JURISIC on the Green Gully bench during last week's NSL Cup match against Sydney City?

Jurisic, the St George and Australian physio, was helping out the Melbourne club.

His luck must of rubbed off as Gully scored a surprise 2-1 win over the Slackers.



WOLLONGONG CITY midfielder BERNIE GODZIK was absent from the team-sheet for the Wolves' NSL Cup tie in Newcastle last week.

The mystery was explained when it was discovered Godzik had pulled a hamstring during warm-up exercises in the dressing room before the game.

His place was taken by PAT BRODNIK, but that left Wollongong short of a second substitute.

Who better to fill the role than ADRIAN ALSTON, the Wollongong coach who is a former Socceroo star, but his services were not required.

SERGIO MELTA, Adelaide City's Australian NSL Player of the Year, will miss out on a chance for votes in this year's award for at least another four weeks.

He has already been out for two with torn knee ligaments from his team's Ampol Cup Final win over West, and is still limping.

"I hope to start running again soon, but the medics say I'll be receiving treatment for at least another four weeks," said Melta.

"I guess I was always meant to be a spectator at the event," the likeable youngster quipped.

ASW's man in Wollongong, PHIL MURPHY, received a long-awaited kidney transplant in Sydney's Prince Henry Hospital last week.

Phil, who also writes for the Illawarra Mercury, is a very popular man in the 'Gong and his many friends in soccer will join ASW in wishing him a speedy recovery.



IT was great to see so many of the old-timers in that Puskas fun match at St George Stadium but at least one former Saints "great" was very disappointed not to be invited to play.

Whoever selected the St George team should have asked DOUG UTJESENOVIC to turn out.

Dougie was one of the club's greatest-ever players, with more than 300 games to his credit.

His international career was magnificent and off the field Dougie was always a gentleman.



INTER MONARO defender MARK FRANCIS played his last game for the club against Leichhardt on the weekend.

Francis came through the ranks with Monaro in State League, but now, just as the club have begun their first-ever NSL campaign, work commitments are taking him to England for the year.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC vice-captain GARY PHILIPS was an interested spectator at the Beaurepaire Surf Classic at Cronulla Beach last week.

Philips almost entered the event but declined after realising Olympic were to play an NSL Cup match against Leichhardt on the same day as the selection trials.

"I put my name down as a replacement if someone pulled out but then withdrew it after realising I was playing on the same day.

"I guess I was always meant to be a spectator at the event," the likeable youngster quipped.

ASW reporter ANDREW PASCHALIDIS recently took up a position with Sydney radio station 2GB, and last week he did a ball-by-ball description of the final stages of the Sheffield Shield cricket final between New South Wales and Queensland.

His cricket coverage impressed the station and 2GB's live coverage drew praise from the leading Sydney newspapers.

However, 2GB staff have found Andy's surname a bit of a tongue-twister, and he has quickly been rechristened "Alphabet"!



"TNT SKYPAK LEAGUE" — that's the new name for the New South Wales State League.

TNT Skypak International are sponsoring the NSW Soccer Federation's First Division competition this year to the tune of \$40,000.

The sponsorship was negotiated by JOCK McAUSLAND, a Federation executive member. Several years ago as president of Bondi Marine, McAusland tied up the company as sponsors of the lower division club and he was instrumental in securing the current deal.

PERHAPS the most encouraging factor of Newcastle's early season effort is the performance of back-four.

Centre-back NEIL OWENS was considered the "baby" of the side but he has recently outgrown that title.

A cool head and mature approach to his play belies Owens' limited experience at top level and makes it hard to believe he celebrated his 19th birthday only last week.

Alongside 17-year-old right-back MARK JONES, Owens rates as a near "veteran" in a back-four with an average age of just 20.

Owens' teammates reckon his laconic style and natural athleticism is not dissimilar to that of West Indies pace bowler Michael Holding, and for that reason one of his nicknames is Michael.



TONY PEZZANO in action for Australia last year, but now facing a battle to get back into the Sydney City NSL side.

TONY PEZZANO is just itching to get back into the Sydney City First XI.

The Socceroo goalie says his pre-season injury is healed and he is ready to get back into the action.

"I broke my thumb in two places and everything is right now," the 23-year-old said.

"Now I want to win my spot back off TODD CLARKE and press my claims for the national team."

The constant battle between the two goalkeepers for the first team job at Sydney City keeps both players on their toes.

Clarke is due to go overseas on business next month and this must mean automatic promotion for Pezzano.

BRISBANE LIONS midfielder JOHN OGDEN last week became the club's sixth player to notch his 100th NSL appearance.

Ogden, a club junior product, scored his century when he played in the 1-0 win over West Adelaide at Richlands.

But Lions failed to score many points in the public relations department when they failed to recognise Ogden's achievement with any kind of presentation. In the past century — makers have received a trophy.

Hopefully ALAN NIVEN'S 200, which comes up in a fortnight, will not be treated so thoughtlessly.



JOHN McQUARRIE: the Newcastle player who suffered head injuries in a road accident recently.

SPURS EDGE CLOSER

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR are now being confidently tipped to win the English First Division championship.

Although leaders Everton had a sound 2-0 weekend win against Arsenal, Spurs did even better giving Southampton a 5-1 hiding at White Hart Lane.

So, while Everton and Spurs remain level on 60 points, the goal difference in favour of Everton has been reduced to just one goal.

Another factor pointing towards a Tottenham title is that the London side will play eight of their last 12 matches at home.

And, while Everton are involved in the struggle for the FA Cup, Cup Winners Cup and the League title, Spurs can concentrate on just one competition...the League.

Goalscorers for Everton against Arsenal were Andy Gray and Graeme Sharp.

Men on target for Tottenham were Hoddle, Crooks, Falco, Brooke and, in his first full game for a year, Ossie Ardiles.

Manchester United and Liverpool emphasised that they have not given up hope of catching the joint leaders.

United beat Aston Villa 4-0, with exciting

young Welshman Mark Hughes grabbing a hat-trick in seven minutes, and Liverpool thrashed West Brom 5-0.

Liverpool's hat-trick man was John Wark, signed last year from Ipswich Town.

Wark's old club faces a desperate struggle to retain First Division membership after only drawing 1-1 at home to Newcastle United.

Ipswich are second from bottom, with only the doomed Stoke City worse off.

In the Second Division, Manchester City's race to promotion was halted slightly in a 3-0 defeat from other promotion hopefuls Oxford.

City, though, still have a handy three points lead at the top.

Aberdeen and Celtic continue to set a hot pace in Scotland's Premier Division but time is running out for Celtic to relieve Aberdeen of the title.

At the weekend, Aberdeen beat Hibernian 5-0 while Celtic murdered Morton 7-2.

Nothing, however, goes right for the former giants of the Scottish scene, Rangers.

The Ibrox club's dreadful run continued with a 3-1 defeat at home by visiting Dundee.

Rangers are now 15 points behind pace-setters Aberdeen.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE: Coventry 3, Watford 1, Everton 2, Arsenal 0, Ipswich 1, Newcastle 1, Leicester 1, West Ham 0, Luton 2, Queen's Park Rangers 0, Manchester United 4, Aston Villa 0, Stoke 1, Nottingham Forest 4, Tottenham 5, Southampton 1, West Bromwich 0, Liverpool 5, Chelsea v Norwich and Sunderland v Sheffield Wednesday postponed.

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO: Barnsley 3, Crystal Palace 1, Birmingham 1, Brighton 1, Carlisle 6, Wimbledon 1, Huddersfield 2, Fulham 2, Notts County 4, Wolverhampton 1, Oldham 2, Grimsby 0, Oxford 3, Manchester City 0, Portsmouth 0, Cardiff 0, Sheffield United 2, Leeds 1, Shrewsbury 3, Blackburn 0, Charlton 1, Middlesbrough 0.

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE: Bolton 1, Reading 2, Bradford 5, Brentford 4, Bristol 0, York 0, Burnley 1, Bournemouth 1, Derby 0, Bristol Rovers 0, Hull 2, Plymouth 2, Millwall 2, Gillingham 1, Newport 1, Wigan 1, Orient 2, Swanside 2, Preston 0, Lincoln 1, Rotherham 2, Doncaster 3, Walsall 5, Cambridge 0.

ENGLISH DIVISION ONE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Everton	29	18	6	5	63	32	60
Tottenham	30	18	6	5	60	30	60
Man Utd	31	16	8	7	59	35	56
Arsenal	32	15	7	11	51	40	52
Liverpool	30	14	9	7	45	24	51
Notts Forest	31	15	5	11	46	38	50
Southampton	31	14	8	9	41	38	50
Sheff Wed	30	12	12	6	44	30	48
Chelsea	30	12	10	9	45	36	43
Leicester	31	12	6	13	53	52	42
Aston Villa	31	10	10	11	41	48	40
West Bromwich	31	11	6	14	42	49	39
Norwich	29	10	8	11	36	42	38
Newcastle	32	9	11	12	45	58	38
Q. P. R.	32	9	11	12	38	52	38
Watford	30	8	10	12	53	57	34
Sunderland	30	9	7	14	35	41	34
Coventry	30	10	4	16	34	49	34
West Ham	28	8	9	11	35	42	33
Luton	29	7	8	14	34	51	29
Ipswich	28	6	9	13	26	40	27
Stoke	30	2	8	20	18	60	14

ENGLISH DIVISION TWO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man City	33	18	8	7	51	27	62
Oxford	30	17	7	6	61	25	58
Portsmouth	32	15	12	5	53	39	57
Birmingham	32	17	6	9	42	29	57
Blackburn	32	16	8	8	54	36	56
Leeds	33	14	9	10	53	37	51
Brighton	32	14	9	10	53	34	51
Fulham	32	15	6	11	56	52	51
Shrewsbury	31	13	9	9	56	44	48
Grimsby	32	14	6	12	59	51	48
Barnsley	32	12	11	7	36	28	47
Huddersfield	31	13	7	11	42	45	46
Oldham	33	12	6	15	37	53	42
Carlisle	33	11	6	16	42	52	38
Sheff Utd	32	9	11	12	47	51	38
Charlton	32	10	8	14	41	46	38
Wimbledon	30	11	5	14	54	63	38
Crystal Palace	30	7	10	13	34	49	31
Middlesbrough	33	7	8	18	53	48	29
Notts County	32	7	6	19	32	58	27
Wolves	33	6	8	19	31	61	26
Cardiff	32	6	6	20	36	66	24

ENGLISH DIVISION THREE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford	34	22	6	6	59	33	72
Hull	35	18	11	6	56	36	65
Millwall	32	18	8	6	51	29	60
Bristol City	34	18	6	10	57	38	60
Gillingham	33	18	6	9	57	46	56
Walsall	32	16	9	7	50	33	57
Reading	31	16	6	9	53	42	54
Rotherham	35	15	9	11	48	43	51
Bristol Rovers	33	15	8	10	47	38	53
Bournemouth	36	15	6	14	41	36	53
York	35	15	6	14	56	44	51
Derby	34	14	8	12	49	43	50
Doncaster	34	14	7	13	57	52	49
Lincoln	33	10	11	12	40	36	41
Newport	33	10	11	12	41	44	41
Plymouth	34	10	11	13	48	53	41
Wigan	33	9	12	12	36	44	39
Brentford	33	10	8	15	43	53	38
Bolton	36	11	4	21	48	56	37
Orient	34	9	7	18	41	61	34
Burnley	33	8	9	16	46	53	33
Preston	34	9	4	21	37	75	31
Swansea	34	6	8	20	35	67	26
Cambridge	33	3	7	23	30	71	16

ENGLISH DIVISION FOUR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chesterfield	34	19	10	5	54	30	67
Darlington	33	19	9	6	48	30	66
Bury	34	19	8	7	58	37	65
Hereford	33	18	8	7	52	29	62
Blackpool	33	18	7	8	46	28	61
Colchester	33	16	9	8	67	49	57
Scunthorpe	35	15	10	10	59	44	55
Tranmere	34	17	3	14	61	50	54
Peterborough	35	15	9	11	45	38	54
Crewe	35	15	8	12	49	47	53
Swindon	35	15	7	13	43	43	52
Port Vale	33	12	12	9	46	39	48
Hartlepool	34	11	10	13	40	47	43

'SOCCER SEVENS' BOOSTS ENJOYMENT FOR KIDS

TOM ANDERSON'S interesting article in the WEEKLY (Monday March 11) on "Soccer must be stimulating — start with the kids", brings up a few pertinent points, with regard to our own courses and courses by other national bodies.

Enjoyment is a key factor and something that has to be stressed with young players, and also playing with a ball as opposed to "training".

In our own Basic (Level 1) Course, we stress that the job of the coach depends on the age of the players, which decides the plan of the training session and the methods of practices used.

CONTACT

The most suitable practices for young players are small-side games, minor games, ball technique practices and related practices, enjoyment, variety and lots of contact and practice with a ball.

I have just received the various syllabus from the

Scottish Football Association. Although there are courses one called "Soccer Sevens" stressing enjoyment and modified rules to enable maximum contact.

They give seven good reasons for playing sevens.

1. Increased number of ball contacts: Because of the reduction in the numbers and the restricted space of action, each player has a far greater number of ball contacts in Sevens than in the 11-a-side version of the game. As repetition is the basis of all learning this greater frequency of ball contact must aid skill improvement.

2. Greater concentration: The ball is never far away in Sevens and therefore maximum concentration is encouraged. Many youngsters

playing on adult fields lose interest in the game because the ball goes out of their immediate vicinity and they quickly become bored "spectators".

3. Improved fitness for football: The total involvement required by all team members in Soccer Sevens provides a lively and dynamic tempo which compares favourably with the quality and intensity of movement experienced in top-class football. When children play 11-a-side, many of them, particularly those confined to a functional defensive role, have a negligible involvement in the action.

4. Better awareness and greater flexibility: The game of Sevens demands that all outfield players contribute to offence and defence. Consequently, each player's all-round knowledge will be developed. This type of play will also encourage a variety of movement and skills. Eleven-a-side foot-

ball at primary school level often leads to tactical regimentation and positional categorisation.

5. Less conflict: By reducing the "bunching" normally associated with 11-a-side and simplifying the rules (i.e.: no offside) the basic football problem solving situations will become easier to see, less stressful and simpler to solve.

6. More realistic challenges: The reduction in the size of the goal provides a more realistic challenge for the goalkeeper and for those shooting at the target. The use of a lighter, smaller ball makes it easier to head, kick, control and dribble. A limited number of players in a restricted space creates a more realistic playing environment.

7. Much more fun: Because Sevens simplifies the rules, in-

creases each player's contact with the ball, encourages greater involvement from all players, emphasises imaginative play, and eliminates a "win at all costs" attitude, each child will derive far greater enjoyment at this stage in his development from the game than from the adult alternative.

SOLUTION

It seems a sensible solution to make sure kids continue in the game long after their early teens.

It's something that has been attempted here in Australia in various states, whereby modified rules and areas are being played below the age of nine.

Not everyone unfortunately agrees with the concept, but it makes sense.

A final quote by Jock Stein, the Scottish teen manager, on their project:

"Soccer Sevens, with its emphasis on basic skill, total commitment and imaginative movement could strongly influence the in-

ternational status of Scotland in the future."

It is certainly food for thought on our junior planning for the future.

My tips for the season

LOOKING at the National League for 1985, and basing my assessment on pre-season signings and pre-season competition, it looks to be an interesting season ahead.

In the Northern Division, I can't see any side overhauling Sydney City, with their closest challengers being Sydney Olympic, St George and maybe after a slow start Marconi.

In the Southern Division, I think it will be a close race with a fancy for Preston along with South Melbourne, Heidelberg and Melbourne Croatia.

The NSW State league appears to be shaping up as a closely fought contest.

Rockdale Illinden still look a formidable outfit, but it'll be close between Melita, Avala and Manly.

Australian Soccer



The Olympic Airways Soccer League kicks off each week on SBS TV.

Every Monday Les Murray presents all the action from the weekend games. Plus 'Goal of the Week' and panel discussions. Repeated Tuesday nights.

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6pm Monday

MEMBERS of the National Coaching Scheme are up in arms over comments made in the English magazine "Soccer Coach" by national coach Frank Arok. South Australian director of coaching, Mike Wells, was asked by the Australian body to write to "Soccer Coach" and also reply to Arok on the local scene. Here is his special article for AUSTRALIAN SOCCER WEEKLY.

NATIONAL coach Frank Arok may not go down as one of Australia's most successful national coaches, but he certainly will enter the annals of the game for making sweeping broad statements about the game and himself.

Writing in an English magazine "Soccer Coach", the official journal of the London Football Coaches' Association, Arok gives his opinion of the game in Australia.

As a member of the LFCA for a number of years, I am concerned that a somewhat distorted and false picture has been painted of the game here.

Describing himself as national team manager and not national coach (whatever happened to Mr Andrew Lederer?), Arok is quoted as saying:

"Although I am national team manager, I am not the national coach. The structure of coaching is run by Eric Worthington who is doing an excellent job, but the coaching scheme has very little to do with the national team or the various State League clubs. People do go on coaching courses but they do not finish up managing League clubs at the moment, although they do take considerable part in coaching youth teams."

CHOICE

Arok is well wide of the mark on both scores.

I concede that the national team staff has little to do with the National Coaching Scheme, primarily because that has been Frank's choice.

Apart from Eddie Thomson, few of the staff are suitably trained or equipped to advise or work in the developmental area.

In Adelaide we have two NSL sides with staff who have been involved in the NCS.

At West Adelaide, senior coach Neil McGachey and the whole of his support staff have become accredited locally.

At Adelaide City, John Perin, former NSL coach, is currently in charge of the coaching staff at all levels within the club. John is an ASF Level 3 coach.

In the State League, no less than 17 out of the 25 clubs competing in the two divisions are headed by coaches or managers who have gained accreditation in SA, with two more gaining accreditation overseas.

In Victoria there is a similar story. State DOC Tim White reports that NSL coaches John Gardiner, Bill Murray and Bob McLachlan have come through the NCS, while Brian

Garvey and Len McKendry, both English FA qualified coaches, have been active within the scheme.

PATTERN

I cannot speak for Queensland or Western Australia, but I am sure that a similar pattern has emerged.

Perhaps Arok was referring to NSW alone when he was talking about Australia as a whole.

If this was the case, it must not be overlooked that NSW is a special case since it was the last state to appoint a full-time director of coaching. Most other major states in Australia have had full-time DOCs for something like eight years.

Development in NSW fell behind to the point where NSW Youth and U16 sides have done very poorly in national championships and generally fallen behind other states in recent times.

Over the past couple of years, Victoria and SA have been the two dominant states in the national Youth and U16 championships.

With the appointment of Alan Vest as DOC, I am sure we will see a big resurgence in NSW.

Alan is intent on rebuilding through close co-operation with the NSL coaches, indeed contrary to



FRANK AROK: opinion of the game.

Frank's remarks Eddie Thomson, Les Scheinflug and Raul Blanco, to mention but a few, have all been involved in National Coaching Scheme development in recent months.

'NOT HAPPY'

In the same article Frank Arok takes subtle side-swipes at two former national coaches without specifically naming them. He is quoted as saying:

"I started my spell as manager with the three internationals against England last year and I decided that I must look at the players with a view to changing the style they had previously

played, with which I was not happy. The influence of the Third and Fourth Division of English football was exceedingly strong, but I wanted to alter the squad and style."

While I do not profess to be an expert on national team matters, obviously Frank knows as little about the English lower divisions as he does about Australian soccer as a whole.

Having worked reasonably closely with Scheinflug, I can testify that his style was very European and certainly not English. In fact if anything resembles the so-called English "style" then it is the present side, which to quote Frank's

own words "must be more aggressive."

The interesting paradox to this argument is that of the 22 players who toured China and Europe under Frank, no less than 15 played under Scheinflug at either national senior or Youth level.

Further on in his article Arok is quoted as saying that Australia did get to the World Cup Finals in 1974 with nine players from the club team that he managed, but the national side failed to score, and in his opinion if you cannot score you cannot say you did well in a tournament.

It was nice to see Australia getting a full page in an English technical magazine, however, it was disappointing to see us being displayed in such a way.

I suppose it all hinges on the difference between fact and opinion, but the problem is that when someone like Frank, holding such an important position in the game, airs false or misguided opinions then the ordinary person in the street tends to believe such opinions as being facts.

It really is a great pity that the coaching development side and the national teams are not developing in unison.

That of course is Frank's prerogative and choice.

In the longer term, however, it has to be detrimental to the game as a whole. Certainly such a state of affairs would not be allowed to happen in some of the more advanced nations.

Under Scheinflug we started to get there, but that has all gone by the board, not I hasten to add from the National Coaching Scheme side.

Frank now has a mammoth task ahead of him, and I earnestly wish him well because it is important to all of us and the game as a whole.

I would hate, however, to see him hoisted by his own petard.

By his own "standards" he now has to emulate the relative success of his predecessors.

Simply go further than Rale Rasic's side in the World Cup Finals or win more than two Merlion Cups or equivalents as achieved by Les Scheinflug.



LES SCHEINFLUG: Merlion success.

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 air NEW ZEALAND



SOCEROOS ARE CAUGHT UP IN CLUB POLITICS

KEEPING politics out of most things is a good idea especially if we could keep politics out of politics)

This applies especially in soccer, where tragically players are brought into the act and become involved in situations not to their making.

And before I go any further, let me state emphatically this is not a column knocking the administrators of our national and state bodies.

For I'm happy to report that the chappies at these levels deserve top

marks for their efforts of late.

This is more an example of the club scene and of players getting caught up in politics at bread and butter level.

CONFlict

Or if you want, the player becoming the "meat in the sandwich".

It's a situation I loathe, where players are used or brought into a conflict that is not of their making, or indeed where they are the innocent party.

A prime example of this happened at the "war" between the ASF and NSL last year when the players were asked not to play for the national team by NSL administrators.

At that time, they rightly took the initiative into their own hands and refused to strike and played for Australia as scheduled.

But that's all in the past now.

The situations I'm going to look at this week, involves two very important members of the Socceroo squad, Tommy McCulloch and David Mitchell — both brilliant players in their own right.

However, they are two young men who have been caught in the middle of a political storm not of their making.

CALIBRE

Let's first have a look at the position between David Mitchell and his former club, Sydney City.

Last week "Big Mitch" was set to return to Australia to prepare to help the Socceroos in the World Cup qualifying games at the end of the year.

It must be firmly stated that he has no intention of remaining here after these qualifying games are over and that he intends to return to Britain to continue his professional career — this is only natural for a player of his calibre.

On his return back to Aussie, he intended to stay at home in Adelaide with his family and play for Adelaide City — which again is only natural.

However, Sydney City produced an agreement signed by Mitch, which states that if he returns to Australia before a certain date in July (a two-year period from when he left for Scotland), he was duty-bound to return to the Slickers club.

This is despite the fact that Slickers coach Eddie Thomson is on record as stating he does not want or need Mitchell.

But with a signed agreement, the Slickers club were

within their rights to enforce this return clause.

I very much doubt whether the Slickers club would have taken this stand but for "political" circumstances within the Hakoah Club.

UPHEAVAL

What must be made clear in this whole situation is that when Slickers signed Mitchell from Adelaide City for a transfer fee of \$35,000, another committee and another soccer director were in charge at the time.

Then came an upheaval and a new committee and the present soccer director took command.

This new committee then proceeded to do the admirable and correct thing, by allowing Mitchell to buy out his contract for \$20,000 to go to Scotland and attempt to break into the big-time with Rangers.

He did this and congratulations to him for his achievement.

To allow Mitchell to do this was to move by Sydney City that had to be congratulated and indeed it was an unselfish act with the player's welfare put first.

However, not so within the Hakoah Club where the action brought ridicule and criticism from certain factions who maligned the committee for allowing Mitchell to go for what they called a paltry \$20,000.

CRITICISED

It was only natural that the committee did not want to get caught in the same position once again and this seems the main reason for the action they took in the David Mitchell affair.

But that's not the end of it and now this committee are being criticised for this stand by some of the

same people within the club who previously maligned them for allowing Mitchell to go for \$20,000!

This time the cry is! "Shame on you for keeping David Mitchell out of Australian soccer!"

It seems a no-win political situation best summed up "to err is human, to blame it on the other party is politics!"

It is to be hoped that the whole sad episode is resolved by Big Mitch going to Hong Kong, which will insure that neither him nor the Socceroos will suffer over a situation that would not have arisen but for in club politics.

Next we come to the Tommy McCulloch Affair, with "Supermac" caught in the middle of a political storm at Marconi.

A turn of events which I refuse to comment on — it's far too complex for a mere mortal such as I!

STORM

Anyway, at one stage two weeks ago it looked as if McCulloch was going to be a real loser in the affair through no fault of his own.

But in this case commonsense prevailed and McCulloch has joined Apia and Marconi has \$22,000 in the bank.

Previous to these two situations, we had big Steve Paterson being the meat in the sandwich in a political storm between then coach Tommy Docherty and the Sydney Olympic committee in 1983.

This one ended in the tragedy of Paterson, a fine player by any standards, leaving the country to find fame and fortune in Japan.

This should never have happened, for the loss of a player of the ability of Steve Paterson is something our set-up can ill-afford.

Hopefully Pater-

**McCulloch,
Mitchell
in centre
of storm**



TOMMY McCULLOCH: commonsense has prevailed and Marconi has released "Supermac".

son, McCulloch and Mitchell will live happily ever after and their brilliant careers will go from strength to strength.

However, at the same time I wish for the sake of the game here in Australia

that club politics could be conducted without using our top players as the meat in the sandwich to force the issue.

Was it a politician who once declared that "life was not meant to be easy"?

Players become the 'meat in the sandwich'

DAVID MITCHELL: now going to Hong Kong.

BROGES PROVES CRITICS WRONG

THE kids at Fairfield Patrician Brothers no longer face the sort of opposition Peter Brogan encountered in his days as a student at the school.

The Penrith City defender is in his fifth year as a teacher at Patrician Brothers, and he is actively involved in coaching the school's Under 10 and senior sides.

Things have changed for the current crop of young soccer players, who are encouraged and organised to participate in their chosen sport by the school hierarchy.

In none-too-distant days in Australia, soccer-playing youngsters were treated with scorn — particularly so at Catholic schools like Patrician Brothers Fairfield where rugby was a proud tradition.

Brogan says that in a way that opposition to soccer gave him the fortitude to stick with the game.

FORM

The 26-year-old has now re-established himself as a National League player with the type of form that won him a championship medal and New South Wales representation a few years ago.

Last year "Brogues" joined Penrith City in their inaugural season in the NSL, and made a successful return to the top division after two years in State League with Blacktown City.

The switch meant a return to his favoured right-back position and also saw him come under the influence of Glasgow Celtic great and current Penrith coach, Willie Wallace.

Wallace had problems filling a few positions at Penrith, but the right-back spot has never been a headache.

"Brogan has a good influence on the team," Wallace said. "He's a good

Profile BY BRAD EARL

type of player to have at a club."

Brogan has plenty of admiration for the man who achieved so much as a player in Britain and Europe.

"I really believe Wallace has the right sort of approach for what we have here in Australia," he says.

"He seems to get the most out of a lot of the players, and I think that was probably the reason for Penrith's success last year.

"You learn a lot from him, mainly because he knows the situation so well as an ex-player. He can train you very hard when he wants to and then other times he lets you relax.

"He also knows how to relax the players very well before a game, whereas some other coaches put so much pressure on the players that they find it very hard to perform to their abilities."

DEMAND

Brogan believes Wallace has a lot to offer Australian soccer, and thinks his experience — and that of other players who have succeeded overseas — should be more in demand.

"With people like him and Eddie Thomson — guys who have played professional football overseas — I'm surprised clubs don't use them more in trying to foster the game here in Australia in administration and management," he said.

Brogan's first grade career began at Marconi in 1978 under Rale Rasic, and it wasn't long before he was picking up honours.

The following year, with Les

Scheinflug as coach, he was a regular member of Marconi's championship-winning side — at the age of 20.

That was followed by Philips Cup victory in 1980, as well as NSW selection against touring Yugoslav clubs Velez Mostar and Red Star Belgrade.

But then things turned sour. Scheinflug left the club and the championship-winning side began to break up.

Brogan departed the scene at the start of the 1982 season, joining Rale Rasic at Blacktown City in State League.

He played as a sweeper under Rasic that year but, for the 1983 season, the Demons appointed Casey de Bruin as coach, and that was an unsettled time for Brogan.

'CIRCUS'

"De Bruin wanted to play me first at sweeper, but in the whole year I played about half a game at sweeper. For me it was just a never-ending circus of positions, mainly because we had injury problems.

"When I left Blacktown the reason was because he didn't think I could play the position he wanted. I asked him what position he wanted me to play, because I'd played seven. He had no answers to that."

Brogan was brought to Penrith as right-back and he was pleased to be able to concentrate on that position.

"I was determined

PETER BROGAN keeps possession despite the challenge of Parramatta Melita's Don Allan.



'YOU MUST HAVE COMMITMENT'



to make a point to a lot of people that I could play full-back quite well. And I think I showed that to them last season.

"This year we hope we can consolidate on the work we performed last year in surviving in the National League. We're aiming as high as possible."

Brogan has had very few problems with coaches in his career, which is not surprising when you consider his quiet, friendly nature.

"Some people can't, or don't want to get on with some coaches," he said.

"As long as you put your effort in, I don't

think coaches can ask for anything more."

"The reason why they get upset or aggravated is because players are capable of putting the effort in but don't try."

"You might be having a bad game, which everyone has, but you can still put the effort in and the running in and attempt to do your job."

"Without pride in your performance you're not going to get very far, in any activity."

"I know my abilities are limited as a player so I play within those abilities. I concentrate on my strengths and try to keep them

"I don't know if it's because of a lack of parental support, but kids don't seem to be dedicated or don't seem to want to commit themselves to anything."

CHALLENGE

He is also in charge of Year 8, and one of his added responsibilities is counsellor. While most people would baulk at the prospect of dealing with troublesome 13 and 14-year-olds, he is enjoying the challenge.

He sees many kids drop out of sport in the teenage years, and says this is a phenomenon common to all sports, not just soccer.

"We find that the kids who do well at their studies usually have some sort of commitment, either with a sport or some other activity they enjoy. The kids we have the biggest problems with are usually the ones who have nothing to do."

Fairfield Patrician Brothers College, Penrith City and Australian soccer can only benefit from the commitment Peter Brogan makes to his job and his sport.

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GOALKEEPERS STEAL SCENE

BY ANDREW PASCHALIDIS

Sydney Olympic 2
 Apia Leichhardt 1

A CONTROVERSIAL refereeing decision saved the Sydney Olympic - Apia Leichhardt NSL Cup game from going into extra-time.

In the 85th minute Apia's new signing Tom McCulloch split the defence, rounded the Olympic goalie and passed to Kerry Caban, who smashed the ball into the empty net.

Referee Jim Reeves awarded the goal but then conferred with the linesman, who said McCulloch was offside and annulled his decision.

At that stage, Olympic were hanging onto a slender 1-0 lead after Leichhardt staged a determined fightback in the second half.

Both goalkeepers, Bill Londos (Olympic) and Bob Catlin (Leichhardt), should be congratulated, thwarting numerous attacks with tremendous reflex saves.

Catlin couldn't be faulted for the first goal which Phillips scored from the penalty spot after Soper was obstructed in the box. Chris Kalantzis sealed the issue in the 89th minute with a dynamic solo effort.

SYDNEY OLYMPIC: Londos, Johnston, Jennings, Zirras, Lampropoulos, Phillips, Raskopoulos, Soper, Petalis (Theodorakopoulos 59), Kalathos, Kalantzis.

APIA LEICHARDT: Catlin, Caesachis, Brown, Mariani, Rowden, Butler, Genovese, McCulloch, Caban, Bill Ceglia, Colegrave.

REFEREE: J. Reeves.
 CROWD: 4,200.

SLICKERS OUTED BY GREEN GULLY

BY KEITH GILMOUR

Sydney City 1
 Green Gully 2

GREEN GULLY coach Bobby McLachlan stuck by the very players who had let him down against Brunswick on the Sunday and they rewarded handsomely by disposing of Sydney City from Round 2 of the Cup at St George Stadium.

The Melbourne outfit played with surprising drive to win 2-1. They began when Jimmy Williams caught Todd Clarke off-guard with a long, knee-high shot in the 10th minute.

David Smallman converted a penalty awarded by referee Terry Seacy in the 60th minute after Gerry Gomez had executed an awkward tackle on Paul Lewis.

Graeme Fletcher brought Sydney City back to 2-1 after a nifty little move in which Paul Kay, Joe Watson and Murray Barnes had played their part.

For Sydney City there were fireworks galore. Alex Robertson went off for a second dissent offence when he argued over the awarding of the penalty kick, and Barnes, Watson and O'Connor also went in the book.

The Slackers rained in shots over the last ten minutes but Lou Denys held out in goal, aided by an uncompromising Gully defence.

SYDNEY CITY: Clarke, Gomez, Cart, Robertson, O'Connor, Kay, Watson, Barnes, Fletcher (de Marigny 82), Koemina, Lee.

GREEN GULLY: Denys, Murray (McKenna 70), Young, McLeod, Cannell, Smart, Williams, Lloyd, Smallman, Lucchesi, Lewis.

REFEREE: T. Seacy.
 CROWD: 4,200.

LIONS ARE CONFIDENT

BY GREG RUSSELL

Brisbane Lions 1
 Brisbane City 1

BRISBANE LIONS are confident of rolling Cup holders Newcastle in their quarter-final in Newcastle next week.

Lions coach Gordon Arrowsmith believes his side is keyed up to win the trophy they first took in 1981.

Lions certainly showed a determination to win when they downed tough local rivals Brisbane City 2-1 at Perry Park last week.

Lions took the lead after only six minutes when Joe Cairney hit a great goal on the turn.

They then weathered a spirited City comeback which eventually produced a 54th minute equaliser from Alan Reis.

But Lions hit top gear late in the second half and their winner came from a Russell Stewart free-kick just outside the penalty box.

The former Young Socceroo hit his shot to the near post so fiercely that City captain Mike Milovanovic was helpless to stop it hitting his chest and ricochetting into the net.

BRISBANE CITY: Wishart, Fabrizio, Wilkinson, Milovanovic, Bromfield, Junne, Mengotti, Robinson, Reis, Carey, Glockner & Gerritsen 59.

BRISBANE LIONS: Evans, Jackson, McSkimming, Hunter, Niven, R. Stewart, J. Stewart, Ogden, Calmyne, McGregor, Anderson.
 REFEREE: B. Monteverde.
 CROWD: 871.

CROATIA ARE NO FLUKE

BY TOM MCKAIN

West Adelaide 0
 Adelaide Croatia 1

ADELAIDE CROATIA proved that their 1-0 win over Adelaide City in the first round of the NSL Cup was no fluke when they disposed of Adelaide's other NSL club, West, by the same margin in the second round.

Croatia are the only non-NSL club to reach the quarter-finals and have a great chance to move into the semis as they have a home draw against Sunshine George Cross on April 3.

Big striker Paul Blute, who is bound for Sydney Croatia next month was the man who sunk West from a free-kick in the 54th minute.

Taking it from the edge of the box, he struck the ball hard and low and it went into the net off a West defender.

The NSL side had chances but when they came John Panagis, George Kondopoulos and Bill Stefanopoulos missed.

Croatia could quite easily cause an upset in the national tournament as apart from Blute they have a tearaway star in midfielder Alby Rerich and probably the fastest full-back in Australia in Steve Hutchins.

ADELAIDE CROATIA: Skillich, Hutchins, Stager, Maricic, Bridges, Marwin, Keemer, Galline, Blute, Key, Rerich.

WEST ADELAIDE: Sprout, McGregor, Mahoney, Brown, Hiem, Atsalas, Panagis (Papadopoulos 75), Konstandopoulos, Stefanopoulos, Stamagopoulos, Genikas (Metaxas 79).

REFEREE: J. Rossis.
 CROWD: 1,459.

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McQUARRIE'S BIG RETURN

BY NEIL JAMESON

Newcastle 3
 Wollongong 2

HIS head swathed in padding from a recent car crash and playing his first game in a month, John McQuarrie was back at his gutsy best to pilot Newcastle to a 3-2 NSL Cup win over Wollongong at Adamstown.

McQuarrie's final goal climaxed Newcastle's fight-back from a 2-0 deficit.

After the brilliant goalkeeping of Natch Vardareff had prevented Cup holders Newcastle scoring as many as three goals in the first 10 minutes, it was Wollongong who struck first when Peter Kotamanidis' speed enabled him to capitalise on a mix-up between goalkeeper and defender in the 12th minute.

Wollongong went two-up six minutes later through Domenic Giannone, who cut in from the left and unleashed an unstoppable drive from 25 metres.

The goal was the signal for this young side, who are almost all under 22, to show their real ability and for the next 20 minutes they had Newcastle chasing shadows.

But the tide turned two minutes before half-time when Dean Milosevic intercepted a pass on the left and hammered an early ball towards the far post where David Jones arrived to score with a header.

Simon Brandt, on for Malcolm McClelland in the 61st minute, needed only a minute to pull Wollongong apart with a brilliant 30 metre diagonal ball that put Jones in for the equaliser.

The winner came in the 63rd minute. As the Wollongong defence hesitated, McQuarrie ran on to Bernard Kerby's through-ball to score from 18 metres.

NEWCASTLE: Goaling, Meler, Owens, Boogaard, M. Jones, Kerby, Benekski, D. Jones, Milosevic, McQuarrie, McClelland (Brandt 61).

WOLLONGONG: Vardareff, Green, Matias, Hristovski, Dickson, Kerr, Brodnick (Condren 84), Bundalo, Willis, Kotamanidis, Giannone.

REFEREE: R. Lorenc.
 CROWD: 1,000.

PRESTON'S REVIVAL

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

Preston 2
 Heidelberg 1

PRESTON staged a late revival to win their way into the semi-finals with a 2-1 extra-time victory over Heidelberg United.

Having conceded a goal after 20 minutes when Steve Tasiros cracked a low drive that was deflected into the net, Preston fought doggedly for the equaliser and for long periods of time they had Heidelberg defenders running desperately in all directions.

Warren Spink was unlucky in the 38th minute when he rattled the post with a shot from close range.

Steve Smith experienced the same misfortune in the 69th minute when he smashed the ball against the crossbar.

Spink finally netted the equaliser four minutes before time, sending the game into extra-time.

It was during the first period of extra time that Gary Cole found the net to edge Heidelberg out of the Cup.

PRESTON: Traina, Cole, McMillan, Iloski, Dobson, Dunn, Heya, Flavell, Lane, Smith & Petrov, Spink.

HEIDELBERG: Oliver, McKie, Marley, Angels (Butkas), Metaxas, Valentine, Selemidis, Tasiros, Winn, Yankos, Stevenson (Delgani), Patterson.

REFEREE: J. Upjohn.

CROWD: 3,594.



GARY COLE

GEORGIE DEFY THE ODDS

BY CON NIKOLOPOULOS

Sunshine GC 2
 Melb Croatia 0

SUNSHINE GEORGE CROSS defied the odds to down Melbourne Croatia 2-0 in the opening game of the NSL Cup double-header at Melbourne's Olympic Village.

It was a case of the underdogs surprising their superior opponents with a series of sizzling attacks that forced Croatia to defend desperately.

George Cross dominated the game in both halves and should have scored a pack of goals in the opening half.

But Croatia soaked up a lot of pressure to prevent George Cross from going into the lead.

They finally surrendered in the 66th minute when Gilder volleyed into the net after a weak clearance by Tony Curcio.

Croatia conceded the second goal minutes before full-time when Don McLaren smashed the ball into the net to put his side into the semis.

SUNSHINE GC: Kastner, Taylor, Campbell, Bennett, Richardson, Faulkner, Bain (Istuk), Mitten, Gilder, McLaren, Latif.

MELB CROATIA: Govic, Curcio, Parton, Sablak, Cristaldo, Antolic, Deankovic, Biskic, House, Ward, Smolko.

REFEREE: D. Voutsikas.

CROWD: 3,594.

THE SPOILS TO AVALA — WHAT SPOILS?

AVALA may have won the pre-season series final, but they certainly had little to show for it.

Avala coach Vic Dalgleish, speaking after the 1-0 win over Polonia, said: "Sure we won the thing but what do we have to show for it... nothing, not a lousy cup let alone a flag or pennant. It's unbelievable."

"Why would they call it a Federation Cup when there is nothing of the sort?"

Many Avala supporters and officials seemed bemused and laughed at the old adage "to the winners the spoils."

The game itself began over 10 minutes late because of a minor furore over who should supply the match ball!

Finally however extrovert referee Manny Loupis got proceedings underway but not before he had issued an ultimatum to both camps and coaches on what he wanted during the match.

It was a torrid final, neither side giving or asking an inch. So typical of any final was the odd errant tackle and missed pass, but once the players settled down it was enjoyable to watch, and in fact a good crowd was on hand to watch proceedings.

Avala continually attempted to exploit Polonia's vulnerable full-backs, vindicating coach Chico Vojnovic's claim that this is their trouble spot. Left-winger Micky Bratkovic saw ample ball and had mixed success with the chances he gained.

In the 29th minute young Glen Jeffrey stole through the Polonia defence and tucked home a neat shot as defenders converged from all quarters.

Thirty seconds into the second half, Jeffrey was again in the action as he received the ball wide on the right, crossed and the ball struck the far post.

The match continued in its torrid vein throughout with a few sorties eventuating. One clash that wasn't premeditated was the head clash between Polonia's goalie Marcon and Avala midfielder Atagic.

Atagic was in fact one of the best on the park for Avala: his constant running was a feature of his wholehearted effort, continually creating spaces for the others.

Polonia introduced all their possible replacements but to no avail, Jeffrey's first half goal was enough to fashion the finish.

Other than Atagic, Jeffrey was a constant threat and Ray Carney tried his heart out also, but as Dalgleish claimed! "It was a true team effort, everyone played for each other."

Polonia's best were Henry Sobczyk, so cool on the ball, and Dennis Colusso, who, although carrying niggling injuries, ran himself into the ground.

Vojnovic said afterwards: "Dennis and others were carrying injuries but the boys did well after we settled down, especially Sobczyk who was controlling our midfield."

AVALA: Thurlow, Jordan, Dobson, Lembryk, Divani, Coote (Da Silva) (Lucchesi), Atagic, Jeffrey, Tracey, Carney, Bratkovic (Brunetta).

POLONIA: Marcon, Lasek, Cieslik, Falzon (Sobalo), Vojnovic, Colusso (Young), Sobczyk, Janic, Prodano, Mahamah (Lentini), Pop.

CROWD: 1,242.

SIX-A-SIDE KO AT CRONULLA

CRONULLA SEAGULLS Soccer Club are staging their annual six-a-side tournament on Easter Saturday.

The competition is for senior teams 18 years and over, and clubs may enter using the entry form on this page.

The entry fee is \$25, with teams to consist of not more than nine players.

However, players registered with the National League or the NSW Federation's Divisions 1, 2 or 3 are ineligible.

Playing time is seven minutes each way on a half-size pitch, except for semi-finals and finals which are 10 minutes each way.

The Rick Napier Memorial Trophy will be presented to the winning club, along with \$500 prizemoney.

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BARRY BANGS IN FOUR

PARRAMATTA MELITA sounded out a loud warning to any State league championship pretenders yesterday by spanking Ku-ring-gai 4-0 in the opening match at Melita Stadium.

From the fourth minute when Barry Walker scored for Melita, the issue was never beyond doubt.

Walker bobbed up again in the 16th minute to make it to 2-0 and by then Ku-ring-gai's forces were rattled.

Melita were fairly sturdy at the back, with O'Rourke and McAusland combining well on several occasions to stamp out any Ku-ring-gai threat. Ku-ring-gai certainly had their own problems at the back and were obviously missing big Lee Watson.

Walker's hat-trick was completed soon after the interval when, from a free-kick, O'Rourke found McKie who flicked the ball onto Griffiths who crossed beautifully for Walker to deflect in.

Walker was not finished however, as in the 55th minute he grabbed his and his side's fourth goal as he headed in from a corner.

Suffice to say after this match that Melita will be in the top four doubtless and Ku-ring-gai may struggle if they don't find someone who can finish.

MELITA: Pupovac, Laing, O'Rourke, McAusland, McCoy, Jamieson, Griffiths, Vial (Farrugia), McKie, Walker, Hensman.

KU-RING-GAI: Curtis, Goldsworth, Jesse, Bertram, Farrel, Ellam, Bourke, Dene (McKie), Bass, Sutherland, Hunter.



BARRY WALKER

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ENTRY FORM

CLUB NAME affiliated with ASSOC.

CLUB UNIFORM: Shirt

Shorts

No. OF TEAMS ENTERED

CLUB CONTACT: NAME

ADDRESS:

PHONE: Home

Work

Enclosed herewith cheque for \$ being entry fee of \$25.00 per team.

The Club agrees to abide by the Tournament rules. The entry form is part of the Tournament Rules.

Teams shall consist of players other than those registered with:

a) National League

b) NSW Federation Division 1, 2 or 3

The organising committee reserves the right to rule ineligible any player or team.

Please return form to:

Mr Peter Gray, President,
Cronulla Seagulls Soccer Club,
57 Hawkesbury Esplanade,
SYLVANIA WATERS, NSW 2224.

Signed:

(Position in club)





JUNIOR SCENE

Compiled
by Keith
Gilmour



SCHOOLS SIDE TOUR TO UK

AN Australian Schools Soccer Federation Under 20 team will tour the United Kingdom in January 1985.

Tour co-ordinator, Chris James, said this will be only the second tour ever by an Australian Schoolboys soccer team.

The first was to the United States and Canada in 1978, and the Australian side produced several players who are now established stars.

Tourists in 1978 included Eddie Krncevic, John Spanos, Charlie Yankos, Tony Pezzano, George Christopoulos, Peter Raskopoulos, Peter Katholos, Greg Woodhouse and Ian Hunter... all Australian national team representatives at some time in the past four years.

KEY LINK

Since 1978, Australian Select teams have been named each year following the national Schools Soccer Championships, which are sponsored by the Commonwealth Bank.

Two of Australia's current World Youth Championship team members, captain Andrew Bernal and Alex Bundalo, were named in the 1983 Select squad.

James says the Australian Soccer

Federation sees the national Schoolboys team as a key link in their "stepping stone" process.

"The ASF sees the Schools Soccer Federation as having an important part to play in the development

ment of schools soccer," James said.

"The ASSF is now embarking on an ambitious three-year plan of internationals and tours to assist in the development of youth players."

"It is hoped the ASSF can work closely with the ASF and Jimmy Shoulder to expose outstanding schools players to international competition."

Australian Schools teams have been recent overseas tourists in such sports as rugby league, union, volleyball and tennis.

However, the costs involved in an overseas tour are prohibitive and James said the ASSF will be looking for sponsorship for next January's tour.



ACTION from Queensland's Gino Paris Cup, as Jason Preston of Townsville jumps high to head the ball down. Justin Oelling of Mt Isa has his eye on the ball.

APIA'S STRENGTH IN GROUP A

THE Apia Leichhardt Under 16 team is ready to challenge all comers this season, and that begins with an all-in battle against arch-rivals Marconi at Marconi Stadium in the first round on Sunday.

This squad has been Metropolitan Champions for the past two years and doubled up by taking out the State title as well last year.

The club's record over the period in which the Youth League has operated has been superb.

It is touch and go whether Apia or St George

would have posted up the best results over all grades during that time.

The Maroons will field four strong squads this year. These have been carefully assembled and trialled since October.

This year's coaches are: U13 Frank La Macchia; U14 Robert Gabrielli; U15 Graeme MacKinnon; U16 Tony Raciti.

MacKinnon will be remembered by many as one of the fastest and direct wingers to play for Apia Leichhardt when the club fielded many of their most famous international and club players.

Illawarra relies upon the help of parents in transporting the boys up from the South Coast.

Official Florence Stephenson is very pleased that this assistance extends right through to the Under 16 grade, which will be a big improvement on 1984.

Trials have just been completed. Home ground will be Lysaght's Oval (The Orb) at Figtree.

These days in Illawarra the players have a tremendous range of national backgrounds — Greek, Yugoslav, Italian, Argentinian, Irish, Scots, English and "Australian."

Not long ago there was an Aboriginal "original Australian" as well.

Other coaches and managers are: U13 Ray Dowd, John Krishna; U15 Ross Warren, Brian Bott; U16 Ted Stephenson, Len Lowe.

AIS intake

As the 1984 intake included a number of younger players only seven keen soccer lads gained admission to the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra this year.

Included were two each from Queensland, Victoria and South Australia and one from Northern NSW.

VLIETSTRAS TO FORE

JOHN VLIETSTRA, secretary of Wollongong City National Soccer League club, and son Ray are coaches of the Illawarra U14 team this year.

Ray is the Wollongong stopper, although a broken leg has ruled him out for the present.

He is developing well as a player after appearing in defence for the Young Socceros who fought so hard in the 1983 World Youth Championship Finals in Mexico.

Assisting them is manager Michael Forshaw.

CENTRAL COAST REVITALISED

WYONG High School teacher Angus Payne took over as Central Coast Soccer Association's director of coaching and immediately proceeded to revitalise arrangements for the Youth League teams.

Youth League official Terry Cogdon reports that in previous years the squads were not assembled until after New Year.

Payne arranged for October trials after the season finished and the extra polish imported by the coaches in the grades should show out this year.

Certainly, Cogdon says, the Central

Coast squads will be more competitive across the grades.

Next Sunday's first round Group B games against Avala will be transferred to Parklea as home ground Fagan's Park at Point Clare (near Gosford) will not be ready until the next home games.

This year's coaches are: U13 Warren Anderson;

U14 Frank Neilson;

U15 Birrell; U16 Mike Senam.



NORM COOPER'S PROUD RECORD

BY GEORGE CHURCHWARD

NEPEAN is fortunate to have an Under 14 Metropolitan Youth League coach with the wealth of experience possessed by Norm Cooper.

In his vocation Norm is a flight lieutenant in the photographic branch and is stationed at Richmond.

He began his soccer career in the NSW Protestant Churches SFA and moved on to represent Canterbury and District in State Championships.

Later he joined Canterbury-Marrickville, where he reached reserve grade, and then was with North Shore in their first and reserve teams.

Always a goalkeeper, he represented the RAAF in Malaysia and Penang State whilst on tour of duty.

Whilst stationed in Victoria he played for Box Hill and represented Combined Services.

Holding a Level 2 coaching certificate, he has been coaching since 1973 and has been in charge of Latrobe Valley representative teams.

Success came as manager of the Victorian U13, 14 and



NORM COOPER

15 squads in 1980/82, when he teamed up with coach Tony Dunkerley.

This group had a marvellous record. The only time they were beaten was when NSW under John Hedison came out on top by 4-1.

Three of Norm

Cooper's sons are playing soccer in Canberra and another in Latrobe Valley.

It remains to be seen if Norm will turn out himself again in 1985. Last year he was custodian of the Springwood Soccer Club over 35 side.



RAY VLIETSTRA

THE GIANTS GO THROUGH

JUVENTUS, the aristocrats of Italian football and Liverpool, England's most distinguished club, had quite comfortable victories in the quarter-finals of the European Cup.

Although Juventus were beaten 1-0 by Sparta Prague in their second leg match in Czechoslovakia, the Italian team was well-insulated against failure by its 3-0 first leg advantage.

And Juventus took no chances in the return match, casting a defensive blanket over the match.

This defensive cover was pierced only once, with a penalty kick by Jan Berger 11 minutes from the end.

HERO

Liverpool, often disappointing this season, pulled out one of their top performances to beat Austria Vienna 4-1 at Anfield, giving the English club an aggregate 5-2 victory.

An unlikely hero for Liverpool was Paul Walsh, who scored two goals missed a penalty and demonstrated that he is going to be worth every penny of the huge transfer fee he cost the club.

Walsh was standing in for suspended Ken Dalglish and it is a tribute to Walsh that the great Dalglish was not missed.

Joining Juventus

and Liverpool in the semi-finals were France's Bordeaux and Greece's Panathinaikos.

Greek teams rarely reach this stage of the world's greatest club competition but Panathinaikos deserved their success over Gothenburg of Sweden when the teams drew 2-2 in Athens.

The Greeks won through because of their 1-0 first leg win in Sweden.

HIGHLIGHTS

On a night of thrilling football, some giants were toppled in the UEFA Cup and also the Cup Winners Cup.

Included among the highlights were the elimination from Europe of top English teams Manchester United and Spurs, beaten respectively by Videoton of Hungary and Real Madrid; a magnificent win for Inter Milan against FC Cologne even though the Italian side played with only 10 men for most of the match; the easiest of victories for the leaders of England's First Division, Everton, who breezed in against Holland's Fortuna Sittard on a 5-0 aggregate.

Real, who used to be a team of stars in their great days, now have only one genuine world-class player.

He's 22-year-old

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Joining Juventus

EUROPEAN SCORES

EUROPEAN CUP
In LIVERPOOL: Liverpool (England) 4 Austria Vienna (Austria) 1. Liverpool win 5-1 on aggregate.
In PRAGUE: Sparta Prague (Czechoslovakia) 1 Juventus (Italy) 0. Juventus win 3-1 on aggregate.
In KRAKOW: Dinopetrovsk (Soviet Union) 1 Bordeaux (France) 1. Aggregate after extra time 2-2. Bordeaux qualified 5-3 on penalties.

In ATHENS: Panathinaikos (Greece) 2 Gothenburg (Sweden) 2. Panathinaikos win 3-2 on aggregate.

CUP WINNERS' CUP

In ROME: Roma (Italy) 1 Bayern Munich (West Germany) 2. Bayern Munich win 4-1 on aggregate.

In TBILISI: Dynamo Moscow (Soviet Union) 1 Larisa (Greece) 0. Dynamo win 1-0 on aggregate.

In SITTARD: Fortuna Sittard (Netherlands) 0 Everton (England) 2 (0-1). Everton win 5-0 on aggregate.

In VIENNA: Rapid Vienna (Austria) 5 Dynamo Dresden (East Germany) 0. Rapid win 5-3 on aggregate.

UEFA CUP

In MINSK: Dynamo Minsk (Soviet Union) 1 Zeljeznicar (Yugoslavia) 1. Zeljeznicar win 3-1 on aggregate.

In SZEGESFEHERVAR: Videoton (Hungary) 1 Manchester United (England) 0. Aggregate after extra time 1-1. Videoton qualified 5-3 on penalties.

In MADRID: Real Madrid (Spain) 0 Tottenham Hotspur (England) 0. Real win 1-0 on aggregate.

In COLOGNE: FC Cologne (West Germany) 1 Inter Milan (Italy) 3. Inter win 4-1 on aggregate.

WORLD RESULTS

DRAWS for the European Cup semi-finals are:

Liverpool (England) v Panathinaikos (Greece).

Juventus (Italy) v Bordeaux (France).

UEFA Cup semi-finals:

Inter-Milan (Italy) v Real Madrid (Spain).

Videoton (Hungary) v Zeljeznicar Sarajevo (Yugoslavia).

Cup Winners' Cup:

Bayern Munich (West Germany) v Everton (England).

Rapid Vienna (Austria) vs Dynamo Moscow (Soviet Union).

The above matches will be played on a home and away basis on April 10 and April 24.

WEST GERMANY

POINTS: Bayern Munich 34, Bremen 32, M'gladbach 28, Uerdingen 27, Hamburg 26.

FRANCE

POINTS: Bordeaux 47, Nantes 43, Auxerre 36, Toulon 35, Monaco 34.

REAL MAY LOOK TO BRITAIN

BARCELONA'S great successes this season an English coach, Terry Venables, have caused other Spanish clubs to wonder if there is more hidden coaching talent in Britain.

Amancio is the present Real Madrid coach but he knows there is no security in his job.

Southampton's Lawrie McMenemy and Aberdeen's Alex Ferguson are two UK team bosses whose achievements have been noted by Real.

After spending all season in the shadow of Barcelona, Real Madrid are ready to make a few changes on and off the field.

Latest top coach to have his name linked with the club is Cesar Luis Menotti, the man who guided Argentina to win the 1978 World Cup.

As their West German star sweeper Uli Stielike says "A new president is coming in and who knows what plans he will have if we don't win something?"

Real, who used to be a team of stars in their great days, now have only one genuine world-class player.

He's 22-year-old



international forward Emilio Butragueno whose form has been impeccable during Real's troubled times.

AGE was no deterrent when Brazil's Zico was transferred from Udinese to Flamengo.

TWO multi-national companies plus a TV network raised the cash — about \$3,000,000.

And Zico will be 33 on his next birthday.

□ □ □

IN the 1985 Copa Brasil, Atletico Mineiro lead Group A with 15 points while Internacional top Group B on 13.

□ □ □

DIEGO MARADONA has not had the happiest of first seasons with Napoli but the little Argentinian genius has still managed his share of goals.

Maradona (11 goals) is in second place to Michel Platini (15) in the Italian scoring lists.

□ □ □

DANISH international Frank Arnesen, now with Anderlecht in Belgium, claims he is still owed \$200,000 by his former club Valencia.

Arnesen is suing the Spanish club.



ULI STIELIKE: Real Madrid sweeper.

AC MILAN RIFT WITH HATELEY

WHILE Mark Hateley has been one of the successes of the Italian season, his club, A C Milan, is said to be ready to sell the English goalscorer.

But only if they get the replacement they want ... Liverpool's Ian Rush.

The former Portsmouth centre-for-

ward is paid \$4,000 a week by his club, which seems a reasonable sort of a pay packet.

SOCRATES MAY QUIT

SOCRATES, who has had a good initial year with Fiorentina, is unlikely to stay in Italy when his contract ends.

He is said to be keen to return to his native Brazil where he has hopes of entering politics.

If he does, it could mean the end of his football career.

Big honour for a kid

AN 18 year-old has been convincingly voted "Player of the Year" in Belgium.

Vincenzo Scifo is his name and he plays for the excellent Anderlecht side, but he might easily have been with an Italian team.

Scifo's parents are Italian.

He once said he wanted to play for Italy's national team but, after gaining Belgian international honours, he was no longer eligible for the Italians.



UK Scene

'HANDS OFF THE BOSS'

GEORGE GRAHAM, boss of Millwall, is now being lauded as one of the great up-and-coming managers in England.

As a player with Arsenal, Graham was always an artistic performer and he has taken his playing skills into the demanding area of management.

He was recently offered a new three-year contract and signed it, but this will not prevent wealthy clubs trying to lure him from Millwall.

Club chairman Alan Thorne issued a "hands off" warning to any clubs wanting to employ Graham.

"No amount of money any First Division club could offer in compensation would persuade Millwall to let George leave," said Thorne.

The Third Division London club also has big ideas about changes to its home ground at The Den.

It is a vast, expensive scheme which will make the ground one of the most modern in England.

MILK CUP TICKET SHORTAGE

WHEN the Football League launched its League Cup competition it was treated as a bit of a bore by most clubs — an unnecessary intrusion on an already overcrowded fixture list.

All that has changed. Now sponsored by the Milk Board, yesterday's Final at Wembley was a sell-out.

This surprised the doubters. After all, the finalists, Norwich City and Sunderland, are hardly the most glamorous teams in England.

As a Football League spokesman said: "The two clubs got 35,000 tickets each but were appealing for more in the lead-up to the match."

Somebody had suggested it would be an "unpopular" final but it turned out to be just the opposite.

COSTLY MISSES FOR GUNNERS

ARSENAL could lose a fortune this season unless they start winning a few matches.

Sponsors JVC have an agreement with Arsenal based on success for the team.

There will be plenty of cash around if the Gunners get into Europe or win an important trophy.

If they don't, the pay-out from JVC will be much smaller. In addition gate revenue at Highbury is going to crash badly if the team is out of the title race.

A season which started full of rich

has just played 13 games for only one goal!

ALLERGIC WOLVES

TOMMY DOCHERTY hasn't lost his waspish sense of humour despite the bad results of his team, Wolves.

After Wolves and Crystal Palace drew 0-0, the Doc com-

HUGHES SHOOTS TO THE TOP

BRYAN ROBSON'S absence through injury will probably be blamed if Manchester United fail to win the First Division championship — but United did not fare at all badly during the English skipper's spell on the sidelines.

United had nine wins and two draws while Robson was missing.

In many of those matches, the team hero was 21-year-old Welshman Mark Hughes, who scored the first goal in a vital 2-1 away win at Tottenham.

Hughes is not one of the star names in all-star line-up, but he drew great praise from Spurs boss Peter Shreeves after that game.

'SINISTER'

"Hughes put on one of the best centre-forward exhibitions I have ever seen," said Shreeves.

Some of the tough treatment he received from Spurs players was described in a London paper as "sinister".

And United boss Ron Atkinson commented "Hughes took a real battering — but not mentally."

COCHRANE BARRED

GILLINGHAM refused to release international winger Terry Cochrane to play in the vital World Cup match for Northern Ireland against England.

They claimed Cochrane was needed for a club game against Hull on the Tuesday — a classic case of club before country.



MARK HUGHES

A MOVE FOR GILLESPIE

CRAIG JOHNSTON is not the only Liverpool star who has fallen out with team manager Joe Fagan.

Gary Gillespie, who has played well as understudy for injured Mark Lawrenson, lost his place when Lawrenson recovered.

With Gillespie in the side, Liverpool conceded only one goal in four games.

But in a chat with Fagan, Gillespie was

told that the team's first-choice central defenders were Lawrenson and Alan Hansen.

Gillespie was told he can leave at the end of the season. He was signed for \$500,000 only 18 months ago.

Now there is talk of his moving to Arsenal in part-exchange for Scottish international Charlie Nicholas.

Arsenal want to strengthen their defence and it seems Tommy Caton, who played much of his junior football in

A Cowans comeback

ENGLAND midfielder Gordon Cowans has wondered for the past two years if he will ever recover completely from a terrible leg injury.

At last the signs are encouraging.

Cowans has made a comeback to Aston Villa's first team and his next target is to regain his place in England's World Cup

IN BRIEF

STEVE FOSTER could be in line for a most unusual record.

With Brighton, he reached the FA Cup Final at Wembley but his team suffered relegation to Second Divi-

STEVE HITS

FURIOUS Crystal Palace fans after their team lost 5-0 to many of them had to be

The fans were demanding club chairman Ron Noades.